

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Kiyohito ISHIDA, et al.

Art Unit: *To Be Assigned*

Appl. No. *To Be Assigned*

Examiner: *To Be Assigned*

Confirmation No.: *To Be Assigned*

Filed: December 7, 2005

Atty. Docket No. 31238-225900

For: CONTINUOUS VACUUM  
CARBURIZING PROCESS AND  
APPARATUS FOR METAL WIRE,  
METAL STRIP OR METAL PIPE

Customer No.

26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**MAIL STOP PCT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97  
within the time specified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

In order to comply the duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, submitted  
herewith is Form PTO/SB/08A listing the documents (cite Nos. A1- A-4) cited in the  
International Search report of International Application No. PCT/JP2004/009181. The  
relevance of each document is indicated in the International Search Report.

Copies of the documents are not being provided since copies are furnished directly by  
WIPO under an exchange program between the PTO, the EPO and the JPO.

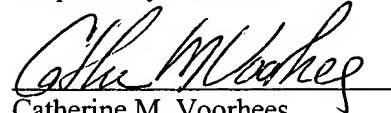
If the copies were not furnished and a copy of a cited document is desired, please inform the undersigned and a copy of the missing document will be supplied.

Additionally, in order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is notified of the documents (cite Nos. A-5 - A-9) which are also listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application. One copy of each of these documents, as well as an Abstract of each of the documents, is submitted herewith.

In view of the above, no further statement of relevance need be given, and as all requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, and all official guidelines pertaining to Information Disclosure Statements have been complied with, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the cited publications and make them of record.

Date: December 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Kiyohito Ishida
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	31238-225900
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	A-1	JP 3-247749	11/05/1991			
	A-2	JP 3-87350	04/12/1991			
	A-3	JP 2003-171756	06/20/2003			
	A-4	JP 2003-129215	05/08/2003			
	A-5	JP 3053605	08/17/1999			Abstract
	A-6	JP 6192814	07/12/1994			Abstract
	A-7	JP 126829	05/16/1995			Abstract
	A-8	JP 3247749	11/05/1991			Abstract
	A-9	JP 3087350	04/12/1991			Abstract

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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